

## Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

IO-10 OMB-01 SAM-01 /071 W

----- 109524

R 200806Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8449

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS KS

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: SEOUL 1030

1. ON FEB 18, MINISTER OF JUSTICE, HWANG SAN-TOK, WARNED THAT ROKG WOULD REJAIL RELEASED PRISONERS WHO" HAD VIOLATED EMERGENCY MEASURES IF THEY CONTINUED THE "RASH ACTIONS" THEY DISPLAYED IMMEDIATELY UPON THEIR RELEASE. HWANG EVIDENTLY HAD IN MIND ANTAGONISTIC STATEMENTS MADE BY VARIOUS RELEASED PRISONERS AS WELL AS ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE.

2. MINISTER OF EDUCATION, YU KI-CHUN, SAID HE FELT IT WAS UNDESIRABLE FROM EDUCATIONAL OR LEGAL POINT OF VIEW TO REINSTATE STUDENTS (AS WELL AS CERTAIN YONSEI PROFESSORS) AT THEIR UNIVERSITIES. ACCORDING TO YU, PRESIDENTIAL RELEASE WAS SUSPENSION OF PENALTY AND NOT AMNESTY. ECHOING THIS LINE, DRP SECRETARY GENERAL KIL CHON-SIL THOUGHT IT "REGRETTABLE" THAT RECENTLY FREED STUDENTS HAVE REACTED (AND PERHAPS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED) AS HEROES. BEFORE STUDENTS ARE REINSTATED,

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KIL NOTED THEY SHOULD FIRST SHOW SOME SIGN OF

REPENTANCE. ON THE OTHER HAND, AS REPORTED IN REFTTEL, DRP SPOKESMEN HAVE TAKEN SOMEWHAT SOFTER LINE OVER PAST THREE DAYS, ANNOUNCING THEIR EFFORTS TO "SEEK A DIALOGUE" WITH YUSHIN OPPONENTS.

3. FORMER NDP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE KIM TAE-CHUNG HOWEVER, SPOKE OUT ON FEB 20 AGAINST SOME RECENT GOVERNMENT AND DRP STATEMENTS ON RELEASED PRISONERS. HE CALLED PRESIDENT PARK'S ATTENTION TO REPORTS OF TORTURE AND MISTREATMENT OF RELEASED PRISONERS AS WELL AS ALLEGED FABRICATION OF CRIMINAL EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM, KIM URGED FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

A. PRESIDENT PARK SHOULD GRANT COMPLETE AMNESTY TO ALL THOSE RECENTLY RELEASED PRISONERS SO THEY CAN RETURN TO THEIR SCHOOLS AND PROFESSIONS;

B. ROKG SHOULD ORGANIZE GOVERNMENT/CIVILIAN JOINT INVESTIGATIVE TEAM TO LEARN TRUTH BEHIND ABOVE ALLEGATIONS;

C. THOSE STILL IMPRISONED AND CONNECTED WITH PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRP) AND ANTI-COMMUNIST LAWS SHOULD BE RETRIED IN OPEN CIVIL COURT. KIM ALSO NOTED THAT EVEN IF THESE PERSONS ARE COMMUNISTS, THEY HAVE RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL. HE DID NOT CALL FOR GOVERNMENT TO STEP DOWN, HOWEVER.  
SNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, KS, (HWANG SAN-TOK)  
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